

To: lincolnferguson23@gmail.com[lincolnferguson23@gmail.com]
From: Ferguson, Lincoln
Sent: Thur 8/10/2017 11:50:26 AM
Subject: Fwd: FOR APPROVAL//EPA Evening News Highlights 8.9.17
[EPA Evening News Highlights 8.9.17.docx](#)
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Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hewitt, James" <hewitt.james@epa.gov>
Date: August 9, 2017 at 3:13:24 PM CDT
To: "Bowman, Liz" <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>, "Graham, Amy" <graham.amy@epa.gov>, "Ferguson, Lincoln" <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>, "Konkus, John" <konkus.john@epa.gov>, "Wilcox, Jahan" <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>, "Abboud, Michael" <abboud.michael@epa.gov>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL//EPA Evening News Highlights 8.9.17

EPA Evening News Highlights 8.9.17

Tulsa World: Some believe Scott Pruitt is eyeing U.S. Senate campaign from his seat as EPA head

Former Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt's foray into the federal bureaucracy as Environmental Protection Agency administrator doesn't seem to have diminished speculation that his ultimate goal is the U.S. Senate. Although he remains mum about his long-range plans, Pruitt has long been seen as a potential successor to U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe, who would be up for re-election in 2020, when he turns 86. Inhofe has not said whether he'll seek another term, but he has always been very complementary of Pruitt and, publicly at least, seems to regard Pruitt as a worthy protege.

E&E News: Despite rumors, Chicago office isn't closing soon

U.S. EPA is looking for ways to reduce its physical footprint, but that doesn't include plans to shut down the agency's regional office in Chicago. For months, rumors have circulated around Washington that the Trump administration would shutter EPA's Region 5 office, located within the Ralph Metcalfe Federal Building. Senate Democrats have warned EPA

against attempting the move, and Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) even introduced legislation to prevent the closure of any of the agency's regional offices. But the General Services Administration — which leases buildings for EPA office space and would have to execute any physical moves to a new building — told E&E News that no such plan is currently in the works.

The Washington Examiner: Federal court strikes down EPA rule key to Obama's climate agenda

A federal court struck down a key piece of the Obama administration's climate agenda on Tuesday by saying the Environmental Protection Agency does not have the authority to ban the use of certain chemicals used in air conditioners blamed for exacerbating global warming. The EPA enacted the rule in question in 2015, responding to research showing hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs, contribute to climate change. The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals' 2-1 decision said EPA does not have the authority to enact a 2015 rule-making ending the use of hydrofluorocarbons commonly found in spray cans, automobile air conditioners and refrigerators. The three-judge panel said that because HFCs are not ozone-depleting substances, the EPA could not use a section of the Clean Air Act targeting those chemicals to ban HFCs.

The Daily Caller: Scientists Say There's 'No Indication' Trump Tried To Suppress Climate Change Report

There's been no indication the Trump administration has tried to suppress or alter any of the findings of a soon-to-released climate change report, according to scientists working on the assessment. "It was under the radar and we were fine about that," one scientists involved in the report told The Associated Press in an article published Tuesday morning. Three other report co-authors "have not heard of or witnessed any attempt by the White House to suppress or censor the scientific document," reported the AP.

Hollywood Reporter: Breitbart Attacks New York Times, Reveals Potential Leakers at EPA

The website published an email from a reporter that was forwarded to agency employees by a union leader. In what the right-leaning website called evidence that "the Deep State teams with Fake News," Breitbart News reported Tuesday that a New York Times reporter sought to get insider accounts of enhanced secrecy at the EPA. Matthew Boyle, Breitbart's Washington political editor, obtained a copy of an email sent by a union leader. The email, which included the text of what the Times reporter had sent the union boss, was distributed to a group of EPA employees who were told that the Times reporter "needs our assistance in

verifying some information she has heard."

Agricluture.com: EPA asks if it should lower Biodiesel Mandate

The volume of imported biodiesel fuel, surging to 731 million gallons last year and continuing this year, is causing the EPA to think twice about where to set the Renewable Fuels Standard, created to move the U.S. toward energy security. □ Imports "may not have the same impact on energy independence" as domestic production, says the agency. Aided by public comment, it will consider whether to lower the target for biodiesel consumption. The biodiesel mandate is 2 billion gallons this year and 2.1 billion gallons in 2018. For 2019, EPA proposed a 2.1 billion-gallon mandate.

National Evening News 8/9/17

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The Washington Post: FBI conducted predawn raid of former Trump campaign chairman Manafort's home

FBI agents raided the Alexandria home of President Trump's former campaign chairman late last month, using a search warrant to seize documents and other materials, according to people familiar with the special counsel investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election. Federal agents appeared at Paul Manafort's home without advance warning in the predawn hours of July 26, the day after he met voluntarily with the staff for the Senate Intelligence Committee.

The Hill: Mattis warns North Korea of 'destruction of its people'

Defense Secretary James Mattis warned North Korea in stark terms on Wednesday that it faces devastation if it does not end its pursuit of nuclear weapons. "The DPRK must choose to stop isolating itself and stand down its pursuit of nuclear weapons," Mattis said in a statement, referring to North Korea. "The DPRK should cease any consideration of actions that would lead to the end of its regime and the destruction of its people."

Tulsa World

http://www.tulsaworld.com/homepagelatest/andy-krehbiel-scott-pruitt-believed-to-be-eyeing-u-s/article_8df80b4a-fde8-59d5-b67b-153214782f0f.html

Some believe Scott Pruitt is eyeing U.S. Senate campaign from his seat as EPA head

By Randy Krehbiel, 8/9/17

Former Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt's foray into the federal bureaucracy as Environmental Protection Agency administrator doesn't seem to have diminished speculation that his ultimate goal is the U.S. Senate.

Although he remains mum about his long-range plans, Pruitt has long been seen as a potential successor to U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe, who would be up for re-election in 2020, when he turns 86.

Inhofe has not said whether he'll seek another term, but he has always been very complementary of Pruitt and, publicly at least, seems to regard Pruitt as a worthy protege.

In a piece published Wednesday morning, Politico suggests some of Pruitt's EPA initiatives are regarded as political theater. His proposed televised debates on climate change are viewed with particular skepticism, according to the piece.

"The man's running for Senate (in 2020)," says David Bookbinder of the Niskanen Center, a libertarian-leaning policy institute that favors federal regulation of greenhouse gases. "Everything he says is calculated toward securing the Republican nomination in Oklahoma and then winning the general election there."

Pruitt has been and continues to be the subject of intense scrutiny in Washington. Most recently, reporters have been reexamining Pruitt's handling five years ago of a state auditor and inspector's report on a trust created to administer relocation of residents in the area of Tar Creek in Ottawa County.

Pruitt, who was attorney general at the time, took the report to the state's multi-county grand jury, but no action was taken. Pruitt subsequently refused to release the report, saying he

believed it might cast private citizens in an unfavorable light.

At the time, Auditor and Inspector Gary Jones, now a candidate for governor, disagreed with Pruitt.

More recently, as a result of Open Records Act requests for the audit, Jones' office asked current Attorney General Mike Hunter for guidance on the matter.

In a letter dated Aug. 3, Senior Deputy Attorney General Tom Gruber told Jones' office "this audit shall remain a confidential criminal investigatory file in the Office of the Attorney General and will not be released."

A long record in public office can be fertile ground for political foes. The Politico piece says that while Pruitt's energy allies want a more favorable regulatory environment, they don't necessarily want a showdown on environmental science, because that's a fight they could lose.

And if they lose, so does Scott Pruitt.

E&E News

<https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060058555>

Despite rumors, Chicago office isn't closing soon

By Niina Heikkinen, 8/9/17

U.S. EPA is looking for ways to reduce its physical footprint, but that doesn't include plans to shut down the agency's regional office in Chicago.

For months, rumors have circulated around Washington that the Trump administration would shutter EPA's Region 5 office, located within the Ralph Metcalfe Federal Building. Senate Democrats have warned EPA against attempting the move, and Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) even introduced legislation to prevent the closure of any of the agency's regional offices.

But the General Services Administration — which leases buildings for EPA office space and would have to execute any physical moves to a new building — told E&E News that no such plan is currently in the works.

"EPA has not asked GSA to move their Region 5 office from the federal building nor have they requested to consolidate the office," Nick Smith, a public affairs official at GSA, said in an email.

Other changes to the agency's office space are happening at EPA, though most of them began under the Obama administration.

For example, EPA's regional headquarters in Dallas is planning a move to the city's Renaissance Tower at the beginning of 2019.

In 2016, EPA began looking for new office space in Philadelphia for employees at its Region 3 office. Its current lease expires in May 2018.

The agency is also looking at ways to reduce how much square footage EPA uses within existing office space, known as "densifying."

This can be achieved by analyzing how the offices are organized, said Marcy Owens Test, senior vice president of CBRE Group Inc. and a member of the Federal Lessor Advisory Group. FLAG provides brokerage and lease consulting for the federal government. Test also formerly worked as a contracting officer for GSA.

Test noted that EPA's regional offices tend to occupy multiple floors in large buildings. Reorganizing offices could potentially mean that EPA gives up a floor or two of space that GSA could then potentially "backfill" with other tenants.

"That's a matter of shrinking your cube sizes and workplace sizes and reconfiguring the space, and you never laid off a person. It may be how you are utilizing the space and how the space is best utilized for the mission," Test said in an interview earlier this year.

If EPA reduces its footprint within existing office space, or relocates entirely, that would require a negotiation between EPA and GSA "because the lease or the federal building are in play and they are occupying that space," Test said.

In EPA's appropriations justification for fiscal 2018, the agency cites an ambitious plan for shedding 336,000 square feet of office space.

"The EPA will continue to invest to reconfigure the EPA's workspaces enabling the agency to release office space and reduce long-term rent costs," the document states.

According to EPA, since fiscal 2012, the agency has released more than 517,000 square feet of office space across the country, leading to \$20 million in avoided rent costs. The rent savings from releasing more property back to GSA would help to offset rising rent and security costs at the agency.

The moves are part of an ongoing effort in recent years across the federal government to find more efficient ways to use office space and save money.

In 2010, President Obama issued a presidential memorandum, "Disposing of Unneeded Federal Real Estate," which required federal agencies to pick up the pace of getting rid of "excess properties."

The memo called for "increasing occupancy rates in current facilities through innovative approaches to space management and alternative workplace arrangements, such as telework; and identifying offsetting reductions in inventory when new space is acquired."

Questions about the regional office closure in Chicago first sprang up after a Chicago Sun-Times article cited an anonymous source close to the federal government who claimed that Trump planned to eliminate the Great Lakes region office and might combine it with the EPA regional office in Kansas.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has repeatedly denied suggestions that such a plan existed, calling the idea "pure legend" during a congressional budget hearing in June.

"There is no consideration presently with respect to any regional offices about moving them to one location or another. I'm not sure where that came from," Pruitt told the House Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee (E&E News PM, June 15).

The Washington Examiner

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/federal-court-strikes-down-epa-rule-key-to-obamas-climate-agenda/article/2630923>

Federal court strikes down EPA rule key to Obama's climate agenda

By John Siciliano, 8/8/17

A federal court struck down a key piece of the Obama administration's climate agenda on Tuesday by saying the Environmental Protection Agency does not have the authority to ban the use of certain chemicals used in air conditioners blamed for exacerbating global warming.

The EPA enacted the rule in question in 2015, responding to research showing hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs, contribute to climate change.

The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals' 2-1 decision said EPA does not have the authority to enact a 2015 rule-making ending the use of hydrofluorocarbons commonly found in spray cans, automobile air conditioners and refrigerators. The three-judge panel said that because HFCs are not ozone-depleting substances, the EPA could not use a section of the Clean Air Act targeting those chemicals to ban HFCs.

"Indeed, before 2015, EPA itself maintained that Section 612 did not grant authority to require replacement of nonozone-depleting substances such as HFCs," the court wrote.

"EPA's novel reading of Section 612 is inconsistent with the statute as written. Section 612 does not require (or give EPA authority to require) manufacturers to replace non-ozonedepleting substances such as HFCs," said the opinion, written by Judge Brett Kavanaugh.

The Obama administration issued the regulatory changes to correspond with the 1987 Montreal Protocol that sought to stop the depletion of the ozone layer by phasing out another chemical found in aerosols. The 2015 update was part of former President Barack Obama's climate change agenda due to the impact of HFCs on the climate.

"This ruling has significant implications for our industry and we will be monitoring the EPA's response closely," said Stephen Yurek, president and CEO of the Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute, whose industry is directly affected by the regulations. "Despite the court's decision, our industry remains committed to ratification and implementation of the Kigali Amendment to globally phase down the use of HFC refrigerants."

Under the Kigali agreement, the U.S. and other countries agreed to phase out HFCs and use alternative chemicals over a number of years. The agreement was seen as an adjunct to the Paris climate change agreement.

The Trump EPA will have to decide whether it will appeal the court's Tuesday ruling,

which was brought by HFC manufacturers Chemours Co. and Honeywell International. "We are reviewing the decision," said an EPA representative.

The Kigali Agreement and the HFC rule have not been a specific target of the Trump administration, and given that many appliance manufacturers support the regulations, President Trump may find little in the way of problems with the regulations.

But critics of the Kigali agreement are out there, and they undoubtedly will be pushing for Pruitt to allow the court decision to stick. Myron Ebell with the free-market Competitive Enterprise Institute is one of those voices. He was Trump's EPA transition chief who helped ramp up the agency.

"CEI opposes the Kigali amendment because the purpose of the Montreal Protocol to the Vienna treaty is to protect the ozone layer," Ebell said in May. And the "Kigali amendment hijacks the Montreal Protocol and turns it into a global warming treaty."

The Daily Caller

<http://dailycaller.com/2017/08/09/scientists-say-theres-no-indication-trump-tried-to-suppress-climate-change-report/>

Scientists Say There's 'No Indication' Trump Tried To Suppress Climate Change Report

By Michael Bastasch, 8/9/17

There's been no indication the Trump administration has tried to suppress or alter any of the findings of a soon-to-released climate change report, according to scientists working on the assessment.

"It was under the radar and we were fine about that," one scientists involved in the report told The Associated Press in an article published Tuesday morning.

Three other report co-authors “have not heard of or witnessed any attempt by the White House to suppress or censor the scientific document,” reported the AP.

Sources involved in the report, which is part of the National Climate Assessment, “have seen no indication that the White House might suppress the scientific research,” reported Politico.

The New York Times ran a front page article on Tuesday claiming to have “obtained” a draft climate report some scientists feared the Trump administration would suppress. The report, which is part of the National Climate Assessment, found “[e]vidence for a changing climate abounds, from the top of the atmosphere to the depths of the oceans.

It turned out the draft report was actually available online, undercutting the narrative it could be censored by Trump officials. But even before then, climate scientists who worked on the report saw no evidence of interference by administration officials.

Nature reported about a week before TheNYT that “[a]lthough there have not yet been any signs of trouble, researchers are keeping a close eye on how the White House and federal agencies handle the science report.”

After TheNYT published its article, report authors were quick to point out the report hadn’t been delayed. The Trump administration had until August 18 to approve the report for public release.

The Trump administration plans on approving the climate report by the deadline and releasing it in the fall.

The Hollywood Reporter

<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/breitbart-attacks-new-york-times-reveals-potential-leakers-at-epa-1027957>

Breitbart Attacks New York Times, Reveals Potential Leakers at EPA

By Jeremy Barr, 8/9/17

The website published an email from a reporter that was forwarded to agency employees by a union leader.

In what the right-leaning website called evidence that "the Deep State teams with Fake News," Breitbart News reported Tuesday that a New York Times reporter sought to get insider accounts of enhanced secrecy at the EPA.

Matthew Boyle, Breitbart's Washington political editor, obtained a copy of an email sent by a union leader. The email, which included the text of what the Times reporter had sent the union boss, was distributed to a group of EPA employees who were told that the Times reporter "needs our assistance in verifying some information she has heard."

Much of the media industry snarked Breitbart's story by suggesting that the Times was caught red-handed trying to do actual reporting. But, more ominous and troubling — particularly for the Times — was Breitbart's decision to make visible the names of the EPA employees who received the forwarded email from the union leader (though their email addresses were redacted).

These employees may now face consequences for being seen as potential leakers. And, by outing these government employees, the Breitbart story could serve to chill other would-be leakers at other government agencies.

"Stories like this can have a chilling effect on precisely the type of investigative journalism that holds government power to account," Times spokeswoman Danielle Rhoades Ha told The Hollywood Reporter when asked about the impact of the piece.

Breitbart, and Boyle particular, are seen as being supportive of the administration, which much of right-leaning media feels is unfairly under attack by the mainstream media. In this particular case, the story published Tuesday could serve to tamp down potential leaks that

could end up in the Times and be injurious to the president.

Kurt Bardella, who used to work as Breitbart's spokesperson, said the story — particularly the decision to disclose the names of would-be EPA sources — is in line with the site's role as something of an attack dog for the administration.

"There is no question that Boyle & Breitbart published the story with the intent of attracting as much scrutiny as possible on these EPA staffers," Bardella told THR. "It's essentially a road map for the leak investigators inside the Trump administration to follow directly to these staffers. As is standard operating procedure, Breitbart is doing the White House's dirty work, showcasing once again that there is zero line of separation between Breitbart and the Trump White House."

Agriculture.com

<http://www.agriculture.com/news/business/epa-asks-if-it-should-lower-the-biodiesel-mandate>

EPA asks if it should lower Biodiesel Mandate

By Chuck Abbott, 8/9/17

The volume of imported biodiesel fuel, surging to 731 million gallons last year and continuing this year, is causing the EPA to think twice about where to set the Renewable Fuels Standard, created to move the U.S. toward energy security. □

Imports “may not have the same impact on energy independence” as domestic production, says the agency. Aided by public comment, it will consider whether to lower the target for biodiesel consumption.

The biodiesel mandate is 2 billion gallons this year and 2.1 billion gallons in 2018. For 2019, EPA proposed a 2.1 billion-gallon mandate. It intends to finalize the RFS in November. (The biodiesel mandate is set more than a year in advance, while ethanol is announced just before the start of the calendar year.)

In March, the biodiesel industry filed a trade complaint alleging that Indonesia and Argentina unfairly subsidized biodiesel producers and dumped the fuel in the U.S.

The Commerce Department is expected to make a preliminary determination later this month of estimated subsidy rates and to announce in late October its findings on dumping.

“The NBB Fair Trade Coalition will use every legal tool available to address these unfairly traded imports,” says Anne Steckel of the trade group National Biodiesel Board (NBB).

Biodiesel was the first advanced biofuel, a category that includes cellulosic ethanol, to achieve commercial-size production, so the NBB is concerned by EPA’s proposal to hold steady on the biodiesel and advanced biofuel mandates.

“This is only a proposal, and in the past, EPA’s final numbers have been higher,” says Steckel.

About 28% of U.S. soy oil is used in biodiesel. EPA says 4% of every gallon of diesel fuel comes from renewable sources.

The Washington Post

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/fbi-conducted-predawn-raid-of-former-trump-campaign-chairman-manafort's-home/2017/08/09/5879fa9c-7c45-11e7-9d08-b79f191668ed_story.html?utm_term=.30ca2144f588

FBI conducted predawn raid of former Trump campaign chairman Manafort’s home

By Carol Leonnig, Tom Hamburger, and Rosalind Helderman

FBI agents raided the Alexandria home of President Trump’s former campaign chairman late last month, using a search warrant to seize documents and other materials, according to

people familiar with the special counsel investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election.

Federal agents appeared at Paul Manafort's home without advance warning in the predawn hours of July 26, the day after he met voluntarily with the staff for the Senate Intelligence Committee.

The search warrant was wide-ranging and FBI agents working with special counsel Robert S. Mueller III departed the home with various records. Jason Maloni, a spokesman for Manafort, confirmed that agents executed a warrant at one of the political consultant's homes and that Manafort cooperated with the search.

Manafort has been voluntarily producing documents to congressional committees investigating Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election. The search warrant indicates investigators may have argued to a federal judge they had reason to believe Manafort could not be trusted to turn over all records in response to a grand jury subpoena.

It could also have been intended to send a message to President Trump's former campaign chairman that he should not expect gentle treatment or legal courtesies from Mueller's team.

The documents included materials Manafort had already provided to Congress, said people familiar with the search.

"If the FBI wanted the documents, they could just ask [Manafort] and he would have turned them over," said one adviser close to the White House.

Josh Stueve, spokesman for Mueller, declined to comment, as did Reginald Brown, an attorney for Manafort.

“Mr. Manafort has consistently cooperated with law enforcement and other serious inquiries and did so on this occasion as well,” said Maloni, the spokesman for Manafort.

Mueller has increased legal pressure on Manafort, consolidating under his authority a series of unrelated investigations into various aspects of Manafort’s professional and personal life.

Manafort’s allies fear that Mueller hopes to build a case against Manafort unrelated to the 2016 campaign, in hopes that the former campaign operative would provide information against others in Trump’s inner circle in exchange for lessening his own legal exposure.

The significance of the records seized from Manafort’s apartment is unclear.

Manafort has provided documents to both the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Senate and House intelligence committees. The documents are said to include notes Manafort took while attending a meeting with Donald Trump Jr. and a Russian lawyer at Trump Tower in June 2016.

Emails show Trump Jr. took the meeting and invited Manafort after he was promised the lawyer would deliver damaging information about Hillary Clinton as part of a Russian government effort to assist his father’s campaign.

The Hill

<http://thehill.com/policy/defense/345908-mattis-warns-north-korea-of-destruction-of-its-people>

Mattis warns North Korea of 'destruction of its people'

By Ellen Mitchell, 8/9/17

Defense Secretary James Mattis warned North Korea in stark terms on Wednesday that it faces devastation if it does not end its pursuit of nuclear weapons.

"The DPRK must choose to stop isolating itself and stand down its pursuit of nuclear weapons," Mattis said in a statement, referring to North Korea.

"The DPRK should cease any consideration of actions that would lead to the end of its regime and the destruction of its people."

Mattis's remarks follow bellicose comments from President Trump warning North Korea of "fire and fury" if it takes aggressive steps toward the United States.

The Washington Post reported on Tuesday that North Korea had obtained the capability of creating a nuclear warhead small enough to place on a missile.

Mattis's remarks could be part of a coordinated effort with the White House to send a tough signal to both North Korea and China, the reclusive country's main ally.

North Korea has responded to Trump's comments with its own tough rhetoric. On Tuesday, it suggested it could launch an attack on Guam.

Mattis makes note of Trump's involvement in the tense situation and writes that the president "was informed of the growing threat last December and on taking office his first orders to me emphasized the readiness of our ballistic missile defense and nuclear deterrent forces."

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson told reporters on Wednesday that Trump was seeking to send a "strong message" to North Korea that the United States was prepared to defend itself and its allies.

But Mattis made the point in much more direct language on Wednesday.

"The United States and our allies have the demonstrated capabilities and unquestionable commitment to defend ourselves from an attack," he wrote.

"While our State Department is making every effort to resolve this global threat through diplomatic means, it must be noted that the combined allied militaries now possess the most precise, rehearsed and robust defensive and offensive capabilities on Earth," he said in the statement. "The DPRK regime's actions will continue to be grossly overmatched by ours and would lose any arms race or conflict it initiates."

North Korea would have the capability to devastate much of South Korea in any military exchange with the United States. This knowledge has been a deterrent on any use of force against Pyongyang.

Mattis's full statement:

"The United States and our allies have the demonstrated capabilities and unquestionable commitment to defend ourselves from an attack. Kim Jong Un should take heed of the United Nations Security Council's unified voice, and statements from governments the world over, who agree the DPRK poses a threat to global security and stability. The DPRK must choose to stop isolating itself and stand down its pursuit of nuclear weapons. The DPRK should cease any consideration of actions that would lead to the end of its regime and the destruction of its people.

"President Trump was informed of the growing threat last December and on taking office his first orders to me emphasized the readiness of our ballistic missile defense and nuclear deterrent forces. While our State Department is making every effort to resolve this global threat through diplomatic means, it must be noted that the combined allied militaries now possess the most precise, rehearsed and robust defensive and offensive capabilities on Earth. The DPRK regime's actions will continue to be grossly overmatched by ours and would lose any arms race or conflict

James Hewitt

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